

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Examiner's allowance of claims 3, 4, and 7 is respectfully acknowledged.

RE: AMENDED CLAIM 2

Claim 2 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the printer prints an image based on image data of an image captured by an electronic camera, and whereby the imaging condition detection means detects imaging sensitivity information set by the electronic camera.

In addition, claim 2 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the pre-print process means performs a pre-print process for the image data of the captured image in accordance with the imaging sensitivity information, and whereby the imaging condition detection means detects the imaging sensitivity information from header information of the image data.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 2 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that amended claim 2 patentably distinguishes over USP 6,259,537 ("Matama").

As recognized by the Examiner, Matama discloses a printer apparatus for printing an image based on image data of a captured image. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Matama clearly does not at all disclose, teach or suggest an imaging condition detection means for detecting imaging sensitivity information set by an electronic camera, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 2.

More specifically, it is respectfully pointed out that in the selecting means which selects the standard sensitivity of a photographic film in Matama, sensitivity is merely set according to the "film size." For example, as disclosed at column 2, lines 26-29 of Matama, a sensitivity of a 135 mm film is ISO 400, and a sensitivity of an APS film is ISO 200. Otherwise, as disclosed at column 6, lines 42-43 of Matama, sensitivity is merely set manually.

However, it is well known that in a 135 mm film, various ISO sensitivities other than ISO 400 exist. Thus, in Matama, there is no guarantee that the ISO sensitivity will be appropriately set.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that unlike as according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 2,

Matama does not detect an ISO sensitivity set by an electronic camera at the time of imaging.

In an electronic camera, the ISO sensitivity can be changed freely (e.g., the ISO sensitivity can be changed at each time of imaging). Thus, it is necessary to carry out a pre-print process according to the ISO sensitivity set at the time of imaging to appropriately print the captured image.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claims 2, the (ISO) sensitivity is acquired from header information of the image data. Thus, with the structure of the present invention, the (ISO) sensitivity can be acquired easily and accurately, and appropriate printing can be carried out according to the imaging condition.

By contrast, it is respectfully pointed out that Matama (of course) does not even mention "header information of the image data" since Matama relates to a silver salt film (and not to an electronic image of an electronic camera), and it is respectfully submitted that the advantageous effect of the claimed present invention whereby the (ISO) sensitivity can be acquired easily and accurately and appropriate printing can be carried out according to the imaging condition, clearly cannot be achieved by the structure disclosed in Matama.

Yet still further, it is respectfully submitted that the features of "manually setting the ISO sensitivity" as in Matama

is not applicable to an electronic camera in which the ISO sensitivity is changed at each time of imaging.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended claim 2 clearly patentably distinguishes over Matama, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims, namely, amended claim 2 and allowed claims 3, 4 and 7, are all in condition for immediate allowance.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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